Estimated retiree buyout cost as a percentage of accounting liability decreased by 60 bps from 102.9% to 102.3% in September

Expanded analysis shows that competitive pricing buyout costs drop to 100.2%

Mary Leong, EA, MAAA, MSPA, CPC
Ryan Cook, ASA, MAAA, EA

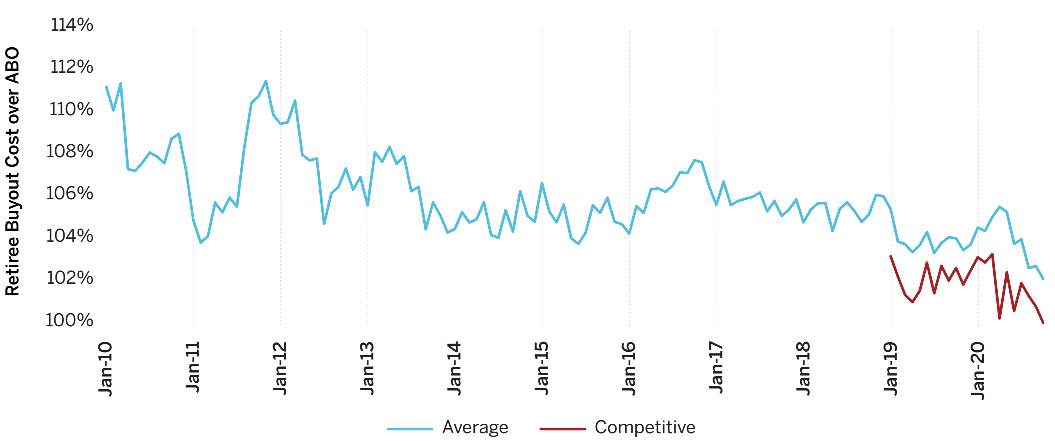
As the Pension Risk Transfer market continues to grow, it has become increasingly important for plan sponsors to monitor the annuity buyout market when considering a plan termination or de-risking strategy. While we continue to monitor annuity purchase rates from all insurers, starting this month we have now also expanded our analysis to reflect the possible impact of competitive pricing to our estimated buyout cost. Figure 1 now illustrates retiree buyout costs based on both an average of all insurer rates in our study, and on just the most competitive rates, which represents the price savings that may be achieved when selecting between bids from multiple insurers.

During September 2020, average accounting discount rates increased by 2 bps, while annuity purchase rates increased by 9 bps (on average) and 11 bps (competitive). This caused the average estimated retiree buyout cost as a percentage of accounting liability (accumulated benefit obligation) to decrease from 102.9% to 102.3%, while the competitive pricing trend decreased from 101.0% to 100.2%.

When considering these results, please keep the following information in mind:

- Annuity pricing composites are provided by the following insurers: Prudential Insurance Company of America, American United Life Insurance Company (OneAmerica), American General Life Insurance Company (subsidiary of AIG), Minnesota Life Insurance Company (Securian), Pacific Life Insurance Company, Metropolitan Tower Life Insurance Company (MetLife), Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company (MassMutual), and Banner Life Insurance Company (Legal & General America).
- Baseline accounting obligations are estimated using a representative retiree population, the FTSE Above Median AA Curve, and insurance company data.
- Plan sponsors should note that specific characteristics in plan design or participant population could make settling pension obligations with an insurer more or less costly than estimated.

FIGURE 1: MILLIMAN PENSION BUYOUT INDEX



Contact

Mary Leong
mary.leong@milliman.com

Ryan Cook
ryan.cook@milliman.com

ABOUT THE MPBI

The Milliman Pension Buyout Index (MPBI) uses the FTSE Above Median AA Curve and annuity purchase composite interest rates from several insurance companies to estimate the cost, as a percentage of accounting liability, of transferring retiree pension obligations to an insurer. To review previous monthly findings, visit milliman.com/en/periodicals/Milliman-Pension-Buyout-Index.

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